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Subject: Railroads and Highways in
Sofia and Vicinity

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Date of Report: 4 July 1956

Railroads

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1. There are five railroads that lead from Sofia and these are as follows:

- a. Sofia - Plovdiv
- b. Sofia - Makotovo (N 42-41, E 23-48)
- c. Sofia - Mesdra (N 43-08, E 23-43)
- d. Sofia - Dragoman (N 42-56, E 22-56)
- e. Sofia - Dimitrovo (N 42-36, E 23-02)

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These lines connect with other lines and therefore one may travel from Sofia to all parts of Bulgaria by railroad.

2.

The Sofia-Bozhurishte (N 42-45, E 23-12)-Bankya (N 42-42, E 23-09) railroad separates (sic) from the Volnyak (N 42-46, E 23-15) station, which is on the Sofia-Dragoman railroad. The former is a single-track railroad of normal width and it is in good condition. As Bankya village, Sofia Okoliya, is a summer resort, there are trains from Sofia to Bankya every two hours in summer; however, in winter the trains run less frequently. There is no tunnel on the Sofia-Bozhurishte-Bankya railroad, but there is a bridge over the Bankya River near Obelya village (N 42-44, E 23-16), Sofia Okoliya. This bridge is made of concrete and is about 100 meters long. The Bozhurishte station on the Sofia-Bozhurishte-Bankya railroad, a railway line runs to Bozhurishte Airfield.

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[redacted] The Sofia-Dimitrovo railroad is a very busy line because Dimitrovo is the mining and heavy industrial center of Bulgaria. Four passenger trains leave daily from Sofia for Dimitrovo, and four passenger trains leave Dimitrovo daily for Sofia. There is a special freight railway which runs from Voluyak village, Sofia Okoliya, to Dimitrovo.

4. The Sofia-Dimitrovo line is a single-track railroad. [redacted]

[redacted] There is no tunnel on the railroad between Sofia and Dimitrovo; informant knew of the following bridges on this line:

- a. There is a single-track railroad bridge before coming to Dimitrovo, between Tsarkva village (N 42-35, E 23-07), Dimitrovo Okoliya, and the Lenin Steel Factory. The bridge passes over the Struma River; it is constructed of iron and is about 10 to 15 meters long.
- b. The Sofia-Dimitrovo railroad passes by the side of Gorna Banya (N 42-41, E 23-14), Sofia Obshtina. Here it crosses the Gorna Banya highway by means of a bridge, which is as wide as the highway. The Gorna Banya has tunnels on this highway, which runs under the bridge.

Highways

5. Eight highways lead from Sofia in various directions as follows:

- a. Sofia-Dimitrovo
- b. Sofia-Plodiv
- c. Sofia - Botevgrad (N 42-54, E 23-46)
- d. Sofia - Belogradchik (N 43-37, E 22-41)
- e. Sofia - Samokov (N 42-20, E 23-34)
- f. Sofia - Dragalevtsi (N 42-36, E 23-19)
- g. Sofia - Durvenitsa (N 42-39, E 23-22)
- h. Sofia - Dragoman

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6. The above highways are wide enough for two vehicles to pass. The following highways or sections thereof are made of mosaic paving stones (sic possibly brick or cobblestones): the part of the Sofia-Dragoman highway from Sofia to Bozhurishte; all of the Sofia-Dimitrovo highway; half of the Sofia-Plodiv highway; part of the Sofia-Botevgrad highway from Sofia to Vrashdabna (N 42-42, E 23-25); and all of the Sofia-Durvenitsa highway. The rest of the highways or sections thereof are paved with a one-inch layer of gravel, under which is a one-inch layer of large stones; both layers of stone are roller-compacted.

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The condition of the highways mentioned in Paragraph 5 is good, and for the most part they are open the whole year. However, since the Sofia-Botevgrad and the Sofia-Belogradchik highways pass over the Stara Planina Mountain, and the Sofia-Samokov highway passes over mountains, these roads are sometimes closed because of snow during heavy winters, but they are opened in a few days when groups of people are sent to clean away the snow.

[redacted] the following small bridges on the highways mentioned. It states there are no large bridges on these highways:

- a. There are two concrete bridges on the Sofia-Dimitrovo highway which are between Sofia and Vladaya village, Sofia Okoliya. These are small bridges about 10 meters long.
- b. The Sofia-Plodiv and Sofia-Botevgrad highways cross the Iskur River and therefore, [redacted] there must be large bridges on these two highways; [redacted]

c. The following busses travel on the highways mentioned in Paragraph 5:

- a. Sofia - Bresnik (N 42-44, E 22-55) - Radomir (N 42-33, E 22-58).
- b. Sofia - Vladaya
- c. Sofia - Belogradchik
- d. Sofia - Samokov
- e. Sofia - Botevgrad
- f. Sofia - Dragalevtzi
- g. Sofia - Pirdop (N 42-42, E 24-11)

Recent Highway Construction

[redacted] the following recent highway constructions:

- a. A highway which extends from Krivashovo (N 42-40, E 23-15), Sofia Okoliya, to Dragalevtzi village, Sofia Okoliya, was constructed two or three years ago. This is an ordinary (sic) highway and passes through Boyana village (N 42-38, E 23-16), Sofia Okoliya.
- b. At present a highway which will extend from Boyana village, Sofia Okoliya, to the plateau of Vitosha Mountain is being constructed.
- c. The mountain road between Gorna Banya, Sofia Okoliya, and Banya village, Sofia Okoliya, has been changed into a highway; at present every kind of vehicle passes on this highway.